

Going to Kosovo?

Do you need to ACAP?

Soldiers planning to transition out of the military soon after their return from Kosovo can start the Army Career and Alumni Program process before they deploy. New hours allow soldiers to attend mandatory Preseparation Briefings any morning, Mondays through Fridays. No matter how congested the pre-deployment schedule, ACAP can fit soldiers in. Once down range, soldiers can continue working with their ACAP counselor via Internet, email, phone and fax. Whether a soldier is stationed in Baumholder, Camp Bondsteel, Camp Monteith, or Camp Able Sentry, ACAP is available to assist in planning for the future.

Soldiers that haven't decided on reenlistment or separation can let ACAP help with the decision process. ACAP can help soldiers decide if separating from the Army is in their best interest or not by reviewing Army and VA benefits, examining the current job market, and assessing how the skills developed in the Army will transfer into civilian life. ACAP has tools to help evaluate the current job market and personal interests so that soldiers can make an informed decision about their future.

Call the ACAP Center with any questions on the Army transition process or deployment ACAP services at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783)6-6741/6330.

ACAP classes

Transitioning soldiers and their family members can take advantage of the following ACAP classes

scheduled for October:

Preseparation Briefing

ACAP Preseparation Briefings are scheduled every morning at 9 a.m., Mondays through Fridays.

Job Assistance Workshop

The next one-day Job Assistance Workshop is Oct 25, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ACAP also offers automated Job Assistance Workshops on their new computer system. Call for an appointment any afternoon to work with ACAP's new computer-based job assistance tools.

For more information, contact ACAP at mil 485-6741/6330 or civ (06783)6-6741/6330.

ACS at a glance

In support of Domestic Violence Prevention Month, Army Community Services is offering an array of family advocacy classes on a personal or unit level. For a complete list of classes, dates and times, call ACS at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)6-8188.

Sponsorship training is open to all, Oct. 19 from 1-2:30 p.m. in the ITC classroom. For more information, call ACS at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783)6-8188.

Christmas gift wrapping will be sponsored by the Baumholder Community Service Club. The following dates are still available: Oct. 19, 20, 22, 26, & 29, Nov 26 & 30, and Dec. 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, & 18-24. For more info on signing up call civ (06783)186819.

Army Community Services and

the Baumholder Library are offering story hour for children on Oct. 26. Story hours are offered from 9:30-10:30 a.m. for children through 18 months and 10:30-11:30 a.m. for children 19 months through school age. People who would like to be a guest reader may call mil 485-6252.

The International Spouses Club meets from 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 18 in the ACS Lounge. The next Newcomers Coffee is Oct. 17 from 10-10:30 a.m. in the ACS lounge.

The next AFTB Level I Training is Oct. 18. Call mil 485-8542 or civ 6-8542 for location details.

ACS calendar

Oct. 18

Anger Management
International Spouses Club
Family Readiness Group Training

AFTB Level I Training
Principles of Personal Finance
Finding the Best Job For You

Oct. 19

Child Safety
Sponsorship Training
Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition and Prevention

Oct. 20

Resumix Workshop

Oct. 23

Successful Parenting
Employment Orientation

Oct. 24

Stress Management
Family Violence Prevention

Oct. 24-26

PCS Workshop

Oct. 25

Conflict Resolution
Monthly Volunteer Recognition
Large Purchases

Oct. 26

Couples Communication
Story Hour (Library)

Oct. 27

Resumix Workshop

Post Notes

Oct. 30

Successful Parenting
Employment Orientation

Oct. 31

Stress Management

For information about classes or services offered, call mil 485-8188, or civ (06783)6-8188.

Education update

Baumholder's Adult Education Program offers Conversational German I and II, English as a Second Language, and Cooking/Cake Decorating Classes beginning the third week in October. Sign up now at the education center. Classes cost \$40 each. Cash only accepted.

The University of Maryland is offering the class "Understanding and Guiding the Young Child's Behavior" for 3 semester hours of college credit during the next term at Baumholder. Call the Maryland rep at mil 485-6178 for more info.

College registration has begun at the Baumholder Army Education Center. Sign up today for a course with the University of Maryland. Classes begin Oct. 23. Call mil 485-6487 for more info.

In view of proposed legislation going through Congress, soldiers with a zero balance in their VEAP accounts are encouraged to reopen their suspended account. A minimum of \$25 is recommended to reactivate the account. Army Regulation 621-202 is the authority to reopen a suspended VEAP account.

Soldiers can now view and print unofficial copies of their Army transcripts on line at: <https://aartstranscript.levenworth.army.mil>

Central Texas College has the following openings at the Baumholder Education Center: Academic Instructor (tutor), evening hours, a bachelor of arts or science is required; FAST Instructor, daytime classes, a bachelor of

arts or science is required; Army Learning Center Operator (substitute), day/evening hours. Call Lonnie Allen at mil 485-6484 for more information.

The Army Learning Center in Building 8108 is now open Mondays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. Friday hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Center is closed daily from 1-2 p.m. for lunch. Visit the Army Learning Center for CLEP, GED, SAT, ACT, AFCT, and MOS study material. Your Army Learning Center also has on-line bookshelves for the latest Army Regulations, Pamphlets and more. Call mil 485-6484 for more information. Computer access is available Mondays through Thursdays until 9:45 p.m.

Early Bird Bakery

Baumholder's Commissary now offers an Early Bird Bakery Sale Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 - 10 a.m. that includes fresh baked pastries and American doughnuts with free coffee.

Youth get ballet, jazz

Child Youth Services now offers ballet and jazz classes on Tuesdays from 1:30 - 7:30 p.m. or Thursdays from 2:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Neubrücke CYS. Classes are for ages 3 to adult and participants will be placed by age and experience.

The cost is \$30 for a half-hour session for eight weeks, or \$60 for an hour session for eight weeks. For more information, call CYS at 485-7003.

Claims Office closure

The Field Claims Office will be closed Nov. 1 for the German holiday. Walk-ins will be accepted on Oct. 31 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. to file small claims or to turn in pink forms. For further info, call mil 485-6507.

Cyber Cafe moves

The Cyber Cafe moves to the Rheinlander starting Oct. 18. The hours will remain 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and 12 p.m.-8 p.m. Sat & Sun. For more information, call mil 485-7507.

Re-enlistment for two is twice as nice

By Jennifer R. Babich

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Capt. Tim Schroeder of 1-94 Field Artillery knew that he was slated to re-enlist Staff Sgt. Hicks. What he didn't initially know was that he was also going to be re-enlisting Sgt. Hicks...at the same ceremony.

The fact that the two soldiers share the same last name is no coincidence, either. That's because Staff Sgt. Dion Hicks of 1-94 Field Artillery and Sgt. Sonya Hicks of 47th Forward Support Battalion are married...to each other.

"That was my first time re-enlisting a couple," Capt. Schroeder ad-



Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

mitted. "That doesn't happen every day."

The two met in Turkey, and were

married three years ago while stationed in Ft. Huachuca, Arizona. It's a union that stresses two commitments...commitment to one another, and commitment to the military. Already the two have devoted a combined 18-years of service to the Army, with Staff Sgt. Hicks having served 10 years, and Sgt. Hicks having done eight years.

As for why they chose to re-enlist together, Staff Sgt. Hicks had a logical response; "Both our windows were open at this time, so we figured it would be easier to do together." But his wife, Sgt. Hicks, stated a different reason altogether, responding with a smile, "Because he loves me."

Hard work pays off with new AFTB home

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

After six months of dedication and hard work by numerous volunteers and support agencies of the Baumholder community, Army Family Team Building finally has a new home.

Now located on the top floor of Building 8745, next to the ACS building, the new center is a far cry from its previous shanty-like accommodations upstairs from the video rental outlet in Wetzel. The center's Wetzel digs featured a modest one-and-a-half rooms in a rundown building with cracked floors, no carpet, chipped paint, no telephone (until a volunteer brought in a personal one), one low end computer and often, noisy neighbors.

In comparison, AFTB's new location has been refurbished from floor to ceiling. AFTB volunteers now have three spacious rooms to work out of. There's new carpet on the floor, the walls have been painted, doorways were added to create a more efficient operation and two fully functional computers are on-line in the center. There are even two non-volunteer-provided telephones and no noisy neighbors.

The new AFTB center opening was applauded by Col. Gene Kamena, 2nd Brigade commander; Jack Ferguson, Army Community Services director and Shantell Badger, AFTB volunteer program manager.

"I think this is a good news story and it's one that really needs to be told," said Kamena. Although the center has numerous new amenities,

Kamena explained that this new center was more than just a new facility. It is about people and their tireless efforts. "Although that (the facility renovation) took a lot of effort on a lot of people's part, AFTB also evolved. Within the last year, AFTB has sent six instructors and master instructors to at least two other communities ... and helped other communities with their programs."

In a nutshell, AFTB teaches military spouses about the military. "A lot of times people lay emphasis on the people that wear the tree suits," said Kamena. "Well, that's about half the Army. The other half of the Army, are the people that accompany us when we move around. When we go on six-month deployments, or a year deployment, our families are back here in an Army system that could be pretty mysterious sometimes. AFTB educates our families to get around the system and they make them independent and self-reliant. And that's the best way to take care of people," he said.

And taking care of people and making them self-reliant is what AFTB does best. With classes covering subjects ranging from Army etiquette to group conflict management, the opportunities for Army spouses to gain the knowledge and confidence needed to become self-reliant are almost limitless.

AFTB classes are presented in three levels. The first level covers Army etiquette, reading a leave and earning statement, customs and traditions and is geared for spouses new to the military. Other subjects covered in level one include, impact of the mission on family life, military

terms, acronyms and customs and courtesies.

Level two focuses on personal development and features time management, stress management, enhancing relationships, adapting to change and introduction to affective leadership.

Level three is geared toward professional development and leadership development, like coaching, mentoring and advising, group conflict management, personality types and motivation and understanding the organization of the Army.

Ferguson, whose organization provides much logistical support to AFTB said, "AFTB is somewhat about the information, the instruction, but much more than that, it's about peer leadership. It's about the volunteers, the family members training family members, teaching the family members how to be self-reliant, more resilient and really developing wonderful skills."

According to Ferguson, Vicki Brown, who heads up AFTB world wide, will visit Baumholder next fiscal year and use this AFTB facility, as well as another site in USAREUR, to develop program standards for AFTB world-wide.

Overcome by emotion over the center finally coming to fruition, Badger said, "We are so excited about how this program has grown, and it continues to grow throughout the Baumholder community."

Badger said AFTB has been around for years, "But we like to treat it as a new program every day. It keeps us motivated to continue with improvements and new and exciting opportunities."

One of the significant improvements



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

ACS director Jack Ferguson and AFTB program manager Shantell Badger officially opened the new AFTB facility with a ribbon cutting.

within the past few months that AFTB can lay claim to is its volunteer force. "We have increased our volunteers from eight to 25, which is very impressive because six of those eight have PCSed," said Badger. In addition to relocating to their new facility, AFTB has also initiated and has a running advisory counsel.

And what does AFTB have in store for the future? According to Badger, AFTB plans to offer classes on week nights and on weekends. "We also are initiating the leader-

ship development courses and we want to increase our training to our soldiers. We are always looking for new and interesting things to do in our programs," she said.

Her voice breaking slightly, Badger delivered a final emotional note of gratitude to the people that are the core of AFTB. "I want to thank, from the bottom of my heart, every volunteer that has helped out with AFTB. You guys are great, we couldn't have done anything without you guys. And I just thank you for all your continued support."

Haunted Halloween howls out for Baumholder ghosts and goblins

The hordes of little ghosts and goblins that haunt the Baumholder community will once again make their rounds in the housing areas, extorting sweets and goodies from the terrified residents who will have no choice but to submit to their terrorist-like demands.

Trick-or-treat hours this year are

5:30 to 8 p.m., Oct. 31. To assimilate everyone into the spirit of "giving," a Halloween carnival is scheduled from 3 - 7 p.m. Oct. 28 at the Rheinlander.

Community Youth Services is hosting the haunting affair and hopes to attract more than 400 souls into their clutches.

As bait, ACS will offer the attractions of a haunted house in the blood-red Rose Room. The Zombie youth from the Teen Cafe and mummified souls from The Underground will be in charge of providing a most haunting experience.

Activities for the younger children of the night will be available in

the "boo"llroom. Scheduled events include bag decorating, face painting, pumpkin walk, and more.

And the most alluring aspect of the whole scary evening is that it's absolutely free.

Just show up for a haunting good time and become consumed by the spirit of Halloween.



Baumholder lights up with holiday spirit

By Jennifer R. Babich

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

It's beginning to look a lot like...Christmas? In October? That's right. Halloween may still be around the corner, but folks in Baumholder are already decking the halls with holly and tinsel for Baumholder's "Holidays in October" celebration.

The ghosts and goblins of Halloween will be sharing the stage with Santa Claus and his elves in Baumholder this year in order to allow deploying soldiers the opportunity to celebrate the holidays with their loved ones before they depart for Kosovo.

The idea for celebrating the holiday season early in Baumholder came when 2nd Brigade commander Col. Gene Kamena and his wife Sandy started discussing how the deployment would impact the holidays. "We were talking about how the holidays weren't going to happen for all the people going (to Kosovo)," Mrs. Kamena explained. "So I said why don't we have the holidays in October, and (Col. Kamena) said 'Let's try it'."

The logic is simple...bumping the "season to be jolly" up by a couple months creates an opportunity for Baumholder families to enjoy the holiday spirit while they can

still be together.

"This is an alternate way for families to celebrate with the spouse," Mrs. Kamena said. "Nothing's mandatory...it's all just fun stuff."

That fun stuff includes both time-honored Baumholder holiday events and some new traditions-in-the-making. Kicking off the family festivities is the Holiday Dinner/New Year's Reception at the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Dining Facility on 19 October from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The cost is \$3.20 per person. The 2nd BCT Decoration Exercise (DECEX) will also be held that day, with prizes going to the Best Barracks Display and the Best Individual Soldier's Window.

On 21 October Baumholder can expect a visit by Santa and his elves at the community's first "Jingle Bell Run." Everyone is welcome to participate in the 6:30 a.m. run...as long as they're dressed appropriately, as Mrs. Kamena explained. "We got the idea off a movie...with everyone dressed as Santa Claus. We changed it, so you can dress as either Santa, Mrs. Claus, a present or an elf. You can walk...you can bike...as long as you're in a costume," she emphasized. Participants should meet at Mountaineer Gym.

The holiday merry-making continues on 20 October with the 2nd BCT Christmas Tree Lighting Cer-



Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

Baumholder's PX, already all decked out in its holiday finery in support of "Holidays in October."

emony in front of Task Force Baumholder Headquarters (1-6 Infantry headquarters) at 6 p.m., followed by the festive sounds of carolers singing at the 2nd BCT Caroling. Carolers will be provided with hot drinks and caroling books.

While the inspiration for the unseasonably early holiday season may have come from the Kamena's, the success of the event is dependent on the cooperation of many of Baumholder's organizations and community members. From AAFES's putting out their holiday decorations and merchan-

dise early, to the Boy Scouts selling Christmas trees ahead of schedule, to Army Community Services doing the Food Basket and the Commissary donating hams and turkeys...everyone seems to be getting in on the holiday spirit. "I can't even think of everyone who's helping us," Mrs. Kamena admitted as she recited the long list.

The festive holiday atmosphere will continue through November as Baumholder service members and their families enjoy the relaxed block leave schedule from 21 October until 5 November, a time that has been

set aside for deploying service members in lieu of the traditional holiday block leave in December.

However, Mrs. Kamena added that service members and family members who stay in Baumholder through December need not worry that the real holiday season will be forgotten. "I'd maybe like to plan a Christmas party on Christmas Day," she reported. "Having the 'Holidays in October' is just something we can do while the (troops) are still here. We want to be able to do this with our (spouses). We want to create a memory."

Teachers welcomed back to class

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The new school year is under way. No one knows it more than the parents that had to dish out the extra cash for new cloths and school supplies. Also at the top of the list of people all too aware that another year of academics has begun are the educators in the Baumholder community—the Department of Defense Dependent Schools teachers.

This year, Baumholder's four schools are staffed with a total of 200 teachers and administrators ready to take on the challenge of passing knowledge on to the youth of the community. They have some help this year from nine student teachers, one from Old Dominion University in Virginia; three from Northern Arizona University; three more from Florida A&M University; and two from the University of Northern Iowa.

Before the school year began all the educators and student teachers were treated to a welcome luncheon

at the 2nd Brigade dining facility, courtesy of the 222nd Base Support Battalion.

Lt. Col. Eric Wagenaar, 222nd BSB commander, encouraged the educators to become involved in the community and to take in their surroundings. He also invited them to the various community meetings where much information about post activities is presented on a monthly basis. "There's a lot of great things going on in this community and there's a lot of neat things to do around here."

Wagenaar explained that usually he's addressing soldiers and telling them how important it is for them to take care of and support the other soldiers (those who deploy) because they are the future of our country. "And it's really an honor for me to address the educators of our young children because they are also the future of our country."

"I appreciate all that you do and I look forward to working with you and supporting you with all the resources I can bring to bear in support of DODDS to make this a great community," said Wagenaar.

Bringing those resources to bear will be a real challenge because it seems like the upcoming deployment affects the entire Baumholder community in one form or another and DODDS is no exception. Wagenaar assured the educators that although there will be nearly 4,000 soldiers deployed and soldier mentors will not be as plentiful as usual, "We're going to do everything we can with what we have back here to make sure we support the schools."

With that, Wagenaar introduced the four sponsors from the military units that will be providing the schools with logistical support.

The sponsor for Baumholder American High School is 2-6 Infantry and the point of contact is Capt. Matthew Dimmick. Wetzel Elementary School's sponsor is 1-6 Infantry and the point of contact is Capt. Gregory Davidson. 8th Finance Battalion is the sponsor for Neubrücke Elementary School and the point of contact is Maj. Keith Muschalek. DIVARTY is sponsoring Smith Elementary School and Capt. William Zemp is the point of contact.



Photo by Jennifer R. Babich

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

Six-year-old Debora Roman takes a swing at a high-flying pinata as part of Baumholder's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.